1975 NME Readers' Poll

ALL THE RUNNERS AND FALLERS. AT-A-GLANCE FORM GUIDE ... THE PUNTERS' CHOICE

British Section

MALE SINGER

1 PAUL RODGERS
2 BRYAN FERRY
3 ROD STEWART
4 ROBERT PLANT
5 DAVID BOWIE
6 JON ANDERSON
7 ELTON JOHN
8 PETER GABRIEL
9 ROGER DALTREY
10 PAUL McCARTNEY

FEMALE SINGER

1 KIKI DEE
2 MAGGIE BELL
3 OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
4 MADDY PRIOR
5 LYNSEY DE PAUL
6 SANDY DENNY
7 SONJA KRISTINA
8 ELKIE BROOKS
9 SUZI QUATRO
10 LINDA LEWIS

GROUP

1 ROXY MUSIC
2 PINK FLOYD
3 E.L.P.
4 YES
5 LED ZEPPELIN
6 GENESIS
7 WHO
8 QUEEN
9 BAD COMPANY
10 ROLLING STONES
11 FACES
12 WINGS
13 10 C.C.
14 DEEP PURPLE
15 STATUS QUO
16 WISHBONE ASH
17 MOTT THE HOOPLE
18 ALEX HARVEY BAND
19 SLADE
20 HAWKWIND

STAGE BAND

1 GENESIS
2 PINK FLOYD
3 E.L.P.
4 WHO
5 FACES
6 ROXY MUSIC
7 QUEEN
8 ALEX HARVEY BAND
9 STATUS QUO
10 BAD COMPANY

DISC JOCKEY

1 NOEL EDMONDS
2 JOHN PEEL
3 ALAN FREEMAN
4 JOHNNIE WALKER
5 BOB HARRIS
6 KENNY EVERETT
7 NICKY HORNE
8 DAVE LEE TRAVIS
9 KID JENSEN
10 STUART HENRY

MUSIC TV SHOW

1 O.G.W.T.
2 TOP OF THE POPS
3 IN CONCERT
4 SCENE 45

MOST PROMISING NEW NAME

1 BAD COMPANY
2 ACE
3 QUEEN
4 SUPERTRAMP
5 SPLINTER
6 SPARKS
7 HELLO
8 PILOT
9 HUSTLER
10 WALLY

MUSIC RADIO SHOW

1 ALAN FREEMAN SHOW
2 ROCK SPEAK
3 TOP GEAR
4 YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T LIKE IT
5 SOUNDS OF 70'S

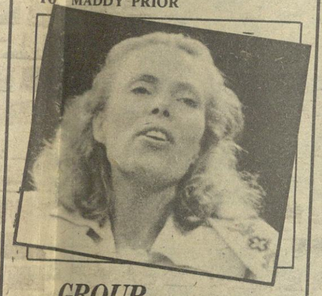
World Section

MALE SINGER

1 ROBERT PLANT
2 PAUL RODGERS
3 ROD STEWART
4 BRYAN FERRY
5 DAVID BOWIE
6 JON ANDERSON
7 ELTON JOHN
8 ELVIS PRESLEY
STEVIE WONDER
10 PETER GABRIEL

FEMALE SINGER

1 JONI MITCHELL
2 KIKI DEE
3 MAGGIE BELL
4 DIANA ROSS
5 OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
6 MARIA MULDAUR
7 CAROLE KING
8 CARLY SIMON
9 MELANIE
10 MADDY PRIOR



GROUP

1 LED ZEPPELIN
2 YES
3 WHO
4 E.L.P.
5 PINK FLOYD
6 ROXY MUSIC
7 ROLLING STONES
8 FACES
9 GENESIS
10 BAD COMPANY
11 DEEP PURPLE
12 WINGS
13 STEELY DAN
14 SPARKS
15 FOCUS
16 SANTANA
17 QUEEN
CROSBY, STILLS, NASH AND YOUNG
19 EAGLES
20 BACHMAN TURNER OVERDRIVE

STAGE BAND

1 PINK FLOYD
2 GENESIS
3 E.L.P.
4 WHO
5 FACES
6 ROXY MUSIC
7 ROLLING STONES
8 LED ZEPPELIN
9 ALICE COOPER
10 YES

MOST PROMISING NEW NAME

1 BAD COMPANY
2 BACHMAN TURNER OVERDRIVE
3 SPARKS
4 QUEEN
5 LYNYRD SKYNYRD
6 MONTROSE
7 ACE
8 P.F.M.
9 SPLINTER
10 TANGERINE DREAM

General Section

GUITARIST

1 ERIC CLAPTON
2 JIMMY PAGE
3 STEVE HOWE
4 RICHIE BLACKMORE
5 PHIL MANZANERA
6 PETE TOWNSHEND

7 RORY GALLAGER
8 RON WOOD
9 MICK RONSON
10 JAN AKKERMAN

KEYBOARDS

1 RICK WAKEMAN
2 KEITH EMERSON
3 ELTON JOHN
4 TONY BANKS
5 JON LORD
6 IAN McLAGAN
7 PATRICK MORAZ
8 EDDIE JOBSON
9 RICK WRIGHT
10 MIKE GARSON

BASS

1 PAUL McCARTNEY
2 CHRIS SQUIRE
3 JOHN ENTWISTLE
4 JACK BRUCE
5 GREG LAKE
6 JOHN PAUL JONES
7 TETSU
8 ROGER WATERS
9 GARY THAIN
10 BOZ BURRELL

State Of The Parties ...

A HEAVY POLL . . . and psephological experts inform us that two broad patterns can be extrapolated from the results. The first is that many readers have one particular favourite group, who receive votes in as many categories as possible; and the other is that recent chart success, or a recent album release, or even a recent tour, can prove vital in securing votes.

Analysis of individual results reveals two other things, both of which will help Peter Grant to sleep easily at nights. First is the rapid emergence of Bad Company as a top-flight band; second the unwavering popularity of Led Zeppelin, whose stature has waxed in defiance of the above rule; they've had no album release, and not even toured.

Zeppelin won in the two major categories — they're Top World Group, and Plant is Top World Vocalist, both titles being taken by convincing margins.

Mike Oldfield, too, proves widely popular, even though the timing of the poll was probably not beneficial to him. Last year, for example, "Tubular Bells" was listed as No. 8 album — this year it's unplaced, though two 1973 releases are included (Floyd's "Dark Side Of The Moon", last year's convincing winner, is seventh and "Band On The Run" third). In our summer 100 Great Albums competition — though not strictly a poll — "T. Bells" completely outstripped all opposition. "Hergest Ridge", his new album, was placed 10th.

For Kiki Dee this has been a year of achievement and burgeoning popularity . . . whereas Slade, Alice Cooper and David Bowie have all lost ground badly.

In the British male singer section, for example, Bowie drops from 1 to 5, and Paul Rodgers has zoomed to No. 1 from nowhere. One M. Jagger drops out to make room for him, otherwise the names are the same.

In the female section, Kiki Dee moves from No. 3 last year to No. 1 this, with a respectable winning margin that's a tribute to her pertinacity. However, our paucity of active and determined songstresses is reflected in the poll. Neither Sonja Kristina, Elkie Brooks or Linda Lewis can claim to have excited unusual interest last year — much less actually having sold any records — yet they are still placed.

Those tarred with the family entertainment brush got short shrift, and both Lulu and Cilla Black drop out for the first time in a decade. And finally, note in this section the low vote for Suzi Q., the only girl to enjoy consistent hit parade success.

In the British group section, very noticeable is a slight, and no doubt temporary, decline in the popularity for Yes (No. 1 last year, No. 4 this) and the triumph of Roxy Music (previously No. 6). Queen and Bad Company make respectable debuts.

But the most remarkable thing is the eclipse of Slade. In 1973 they were winners; last year, they were 10th, this year 19th. And two other erstwhile major bands, Jethro Tull and Traffic, both lost their deposits in this constituency.

Bad Company were easy winners of the Most Promising New Name category, though Ace will be well satisfied with second place. They're the only group from the so-called pub-rock circuit to make any impact as yet. (Dr. Feelgood, who've had a heavy, favourable press, drew no significant number of votes).

Queen finish third after achieving second in 1974, so maybe they're not quite as promising this year as last. The 1974 winner, incidentally, was Leo Sayer, who might be said to have lived up to, but not transcended, expectations. Of the other promising names of 1974 neither of the Scottish bands, Nazareth and Blue, quite justified their high position.

As I've said, the important world sections were won by Led Zeppelin and Robert Plant, while Bad Company straightaway edged into the top ten world groups, and Rodgers became second most popular vocalist. Bowie here completed a unique double, by again dropping from first to fifth position. And again, these sections were dominated by British acts, demonstrating an almost Churchillian sense of nationalistic pride among readers.

In the male vocalist section, though, the top non-British performer is . . . Elvis Presley, who in fact finished level with Stevie Wonder.

As for World Group, the top eight groups all finished in the top nine last time around. Only Focus's popularity alters significantly with a drop from seventh to 15th. Non-British acts are very poorly supported. Despite the brouhaha of their September Wembley extravaganza, CSN&Y only finished 17th, equal with Queen, leaving Steely Dan, 13th, as the highest placed American band.

It's interesting that two years ago Alice Cooper won this section, and is now unplaced. Equally, in the Stage Band category, he drops from No. 1 to No. 9, leaving Pink Floyd to take over at No. 1. Again, David Bowie, with or without the Spiders, drops out completely.

The only categories displaying a worthwhile ratio of American acts are the Soul Act and Female Singer. Wonder won the Soul Act by one of the most resounding margins of all. Most of the votes here reflected 1974 chart success.

Surprising, and regrettable, was the non-inclusion of the still undisputed Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin and her two closest rivals, Gladys Knight and Mavis Staples.

Diana Ross relinquishes her title of World Female and drops to fourth place, thus changing places with Joni Mitchell. Kiki Dee again does well to take second place — it really does look as though her career is about to take off. Carly Simon falls from No. 2 to No. 8; Melanie retains ninth position. Olivia Newton-John, Maria Muldaur and Maddy Prior replace Karen Carpenter, Elkie Brooks, Suzi Quatro and Bette Midler who, like Comet Kohoutek, never quite justified all those extravagant expectations.

Album of the year is the only section we can compare directly with NME's own critics' choice. Of the ones you voted for, "Bad Company", "Sheet Music", "When The Lamb Lies Down" and "Hergest Ridge" were unplaced in the writers' Top 60, but "Smiler" ( ), "Country Life" ( ), "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" (2) and "461 Ocean Boulevard" (4) were common to both lists. On the other hand, "Pretzel Logic" (No. 1 writers' choice) and "Before The Flood" (3) received no significant reader votes.

In the radio/TV categories, the disc-jockey section virtually re-enacts last year's two-horse race; only the result is different, with John Peel narrowly beaten into second place by Noel Edmunds. Alan Freeman comes a safe third.

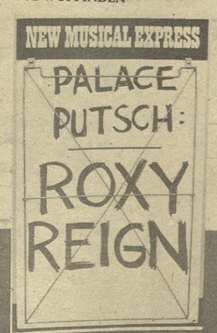
Freeman's Saturday Afternoon show is the most popular radio programme and it's good to see Nicky Horne's show on Capital Radio "Your Mother Wouldn't Like It" denting the BBC's monopoly.

"The Old Grey Whistle Test" again easily won the television programme award . . . but that's like saying that Harold Wilson's the best Prime Minister we've got.

The instrumentalist sections, apart from confirming the emergence of Mike Oldfield, evinced very little change from last year.

The Klutz Of The Year category revealed that you had placed no particularly novel interpretations on the word 'Klutz', and so Steve Harley won easily. NME finished equal 14th (equal with The Rubettes actually, but don't let on that I told you). Indifferent to failure, we will carry on.

— BOB WOFFINDEN



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